

Message Text

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TO JAPAXVIET

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1. ODA MAKOTO, KYUNG MO CHUNG AND NICOLA GEIGER:

2. PRESIDENT FORD APPRECIATED RECEIVING YOUR CABLE EXPRESSING YOUR CONCERN ABOUT KOREAN POET KIM CHI HA. HE HAS ASKED THAT WE EXPLAIN OUR POLICY TO YOU.

3. WHILE THE ACTIONS WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CAN EFFECTIVELY TAKE WITH RESPECT TO THE TREATMENT BY THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT OF ITS OWN CITIZENS ARE LIMITED, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT KOREAN OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF THE VIEWS OF OUR GOVERNMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.

4. THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND ITS PEOPLE REMAIN IMPORTANT ALLIES OF THE UNITED STATES, AND OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE SUBSTANTIAL BILATERAL TIES. MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVE AN HISTORIC SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH KOREA WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN NORTHEAST ASIA. OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS IN KOREA WHO HAVE CRITICIZED DOMESTIC POLITICAL ACTIONS OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT NEVERTHELESS RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE, AND FULLY SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION, OF CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND KOREA. JOHN E. REINHARDT ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE
KISSINGER

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